

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SUSAN DOOLITTLE,

Plaintiff (s),

v.

FIDELITY NATIONAL FINANCIAL INC,
Defendant(s).

No. C 08-03579 EDL

**ORDER SETTING INITIAL CASE
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
AND ADR DEADLINES**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this action is assigned to the Honorable Elizabeth D. Laporte. When serving the complaint or notice of removal, the plaintiff or removing defendant must serve on all other parties a copy of this order, the Notice of Assignment of Case to a United States Magistrate Judge for Trial, and all other documents specified in Civil Local Rule 4-2. Counsel must comply with the case schedule listed below unless the Court otherwise orders.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this action is assigned to the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Multi-Option Program governed by ADR Local Rule 3. Counsel and clients shall familiarize themselves with that rule and with the material entitled "Dispute Resolution Procedures in the Northern District of California" on the Court ADR Internet site at www.adr.cand.uscourts.gov. A limited number of printed copies are available from the Clerk's Office for parties in cases not subject to the court's Electronic Case Filing program (ECF).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that plaintiff or removing defendant serve upon all parties the brochure entitled "Consenting To A Magistrate Judge's Jurisdiction In The Northern District Of California," additional copies of which can be downloaded from the following Internet site: <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov>.

CASE SCHEDULE -ADR MULTI-OPTION PROGRAM

Date	Event	Governing Rule
7/25/2008	Complaint filed	
10/7/2008	Last day to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meet and confer re: initial disclosures, early settlement, ADR process selection, and discovery plan • file ADR Certification signed by Parties and Counsel (form available at http://www.cand.uscourts.gov) • file either Stipulation to ADR Process or Notice of Need for ADR Phone Conference (form available at http://www.cand.uscourts.gov) 	<u>FRCivP 26(f) & ADR L.R.3-5</u> <u>Civil L.R. 16-8 (b) & ADR L.R. 3-5(b)</u> <u>Civil L.R. 16-8 (c) & ADR L.R. 3-5(b) & (c)</u>

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U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10/21/2008 Last day to file Rule 26(f) Report, complete initial disclosures or state objection in Rule 26(f) Report and file Case Management Statement per attached Standing Order re Contents of Joint Case Management Statement (also available at <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov>) FRCivP 26(a)(1) Civil_L.R. 16-9

10/28/2008 INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE Civil_L.R. 16-10
(CMC) in Ctrm E, 15th Floor, SF at 10:00 AM

STANDING ORDER

Magistrate Judge Elizabeth D. Laporte

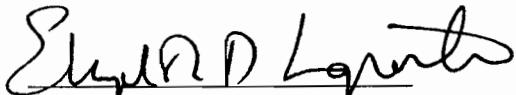
- 1) Civil law and motion is heard on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. Criminal law and motion is heard on Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. Counsel need not reserve a hearing date in advance. However, noticed dates may be reset as the court's calendar requires.
- 2) Case Management Conferences are held on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. Pretrial Conferences are held on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.
- 3) Discovery motions may be addressed to the Court in three ways. A motion may be noticed on not less than 35 days pursuant to Civil L.R. 7-2. Alternatively, any party may seek an order to shorten or enlarge time under Civil L.R. 6-3 if the circumstances justify that relief. In emergencies during discovery events, the Court is available pursuant to Civil L.R. 37-1(b).

In the event a discovery dispute arises, counsel (or if pro se, the party) seeking discovery or a protective order shall confer in good faith with opposing counsel (or pro se party) in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action, as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 37 and Civil L.R. 37-1(a). The Court will not consider discovery motions unless the moving party has complied with Fed. R. Civ. P. 37 and Civil L.R. 37-1(a).

- 4) The Court strives to set matters and render decisions in a timely manner. The Court encourages parties to advise the Court by letter to chambers of any matter that appears to have been unduly delayed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: July 26, 2005



ELIZABETH D. LAPORTE
United States Magistrate Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Plaintiff(s),

No. EDL

v.

STANDING ORDER RE
CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

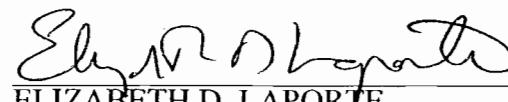
Defendant(s).

Lead trial counsel who will try this case are directed to confer in advance of the Case Management Conference with respect to all matters contained in the attached Proposed Joint Case Management Order, including a **discovery plan and discovery limits** and all other matters described in Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 16(a), 16(b) and 26(f) and Civil Local Rule 16-10. Pursuant to Civil L.R. 16-10(a), **lead trial counsel shall attend the Case Management Conference** and be prepared to discuss all matters referred to in this order. Counsel shall have the authority to enter stipulations and make admissions regarding all matters described herein.

PLAINTIFF IS DIRECTED TO SERVE COPIES OF THIS ORDER AT ONCE UPON ALL PARTIES IN THIS ACTION AND UPON THOSE SUBSEQUENTLY JOINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 4 AND 5 AND CIVIL LOCAL RULES 4 AND 5, and to file with the Clerk of the Court a Certificate reflecting such service.

Failure to comply with this order, the provisions of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16 and 26(f) or the provisions of Civil L.R. 16-10 may be grounds for sanctions. (See Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f)).

Dated: January 26, 2001


ELIZABETH D. LAPORTE
United States Magistrate Judge

STANDING ORDER FOR ALL JUDGES OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CONTENTS OF JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Commencing March 1, 2007, all judges of the Northern District of California will require the identical information in Joint Case Management Statements filed pursuant to Civil Local Rule 16-9. The parties must include the following information in their statement which, except in unusually complex cases, should not exceed ten pages:

1. **Jurisdiction and Service:** The basis for the court's subject matter jurisdiction over plaintiff's claims and defendant's counterclaims, whether any issues exist regarding personal jurisdiction or venue, whether any parties remain to be served, and, if any parties remain to be served, a proposed deadline for service.
2. **Facts:** A brief chronology of the facts and a statement of the principal factual issues in dispute.
3. **Legal Issues:** A brief statement, without extended legal argument, of the disputed points of law, including reference to specific statutes and decisions.
4. **Motions:** All prior and pending motions, their current status, and any anticipated motions.
5. **Amendment of Pleadings:** The extent to which parties, claims, or defenses are expected to be added or dismissed and a proposed deadline for amending the pleadings.
6. **Evidence Preservation:** Steps taken to preserve evidence relevant to the issues reasonably evident in this action, including interdiction of any document-destruction program and any ongoing erasures of e-mails, voice mails, and other electronically-recorded material.
7. **Disclosures:** Whether there has been full and timely compliance with the initial disclosure requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 and a description of the disclosures made.
8. **Discovery:** Discovery taken to date, if any, the scope of anticipated discovery, any proposed limitations or modifications of the discovery rules, and a proposed discovery plan pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f).
9. **Class Actions:** If a class action, a proposal for how and when the class will be certified.
10. **Related Cases:** Any related cases or proceedings pending before another judge of this court, or before another court or administrative body.
11. **Relief:** All relief sought through complaint or counterclaim, including the amount of any

damages sought and a description of the bases on which damages are calculated. In addition, any party from whom damages are sought must describe the bases on which it contends damages should be calculated if liability is established.

12. Settlement and ADR: Prospects for settlement, ADR efforts to date, and a specific ADR plan for the case, including compliance with ADR L.R. 3-5 and a description of key discovery or motions necessary to position the parties to negotiate a resolution.

13. Consent to Magistrate Judge For All Purposes: Whether all parties will consent to have a magistrate judge conduct all further proceedings including trial and entry of judgment.

14. Other References: Whether the case is suitable for reference to binding arbitration, a special master, or the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation.

15. Narrowing of Issues: Issues that can be narrowed by agreement or by motion, suggestions to expedite the presentation of evidence at trial (e.g., through summaries or stipulated facts), and any request to bifurcate issues, claims, or defenses.

16. Expedited Schedule: Whether this is the type of case that can be handled on an expedited basis with streamlined procedures.

17. Scheduling: Proposed dates for designation of experts, discovery cutoff, hearing of dispositive motions, pretrial conference and trial.

18. Trial: Whether the case will be tried to a jury or to the court and the expected length of the trial.

19. Disclosure of Non-party Interested Entities or Persons: Whether each party has filed the "Certification of Interested Entities or Persons" required by Civil Local Rule 3-16. In addition, each party must restate in the case management statement the contents of its certification by identifying any persons, firms, partnerships, corporations (including parent corporations) or other entities known by the party to have either: (i) a financial interest in the subject matter in controversy or in a party to the proceeding; or (ii) any other kind of interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the proceeding.

20. Such other matters as may facilitate the just, speedy and inexpensive disposition of this matter.

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS R&L BROSAMER, INC., a corporation		DEFENDANTS LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, a corporation; and DOES 1 through 15																																																																																																																	
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.																																																																																																																	
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Elisabeth A. Madden (SBN 131172) Lynch, Gilardi & Grummer 475 Sansome Street, Suite 1800, San Francisco, CA 94111 Tel: (415) 397-2800		Attorneys (If Known) Pamela E. Cogan (SBN 105089) Ropers, Majeski, Kohn, & Bentley, 1001 Marshall Street, Suite 300 Redwood City, CA 94063																																																																																																																	
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)																																																																																																																	
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V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		Transferred from <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Original <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court		<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or <input type="checkbox"/> 5 another district Reopened (specify)		<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation		<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Judge from Magistrate Judgment																																																																																																											
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION		Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 USC § 1332(a), 28 U.S.C. § 1441, 28 USCS §1446(b), Brief description of cause: This action arises from the alleged breach of an insurance policy																																																																																																																	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23				DEMAND \$ >75,000.00+		CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No																																																																																																											
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY		PLEASE REFER TO CIVIL L.R. 3-12 CONCERNING REQUIREMENT TO FILE "NOTICE OF RELATED CASE".																																																																																																																	
IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (CIVIL L.R. 3-2) (PLACE AND "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND				<input type="checkbox"/> SAN JOSE																																																																																																													
DATE July 28, 2008		SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD				Pamela E. Cogan																																																																																																													

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.

(b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)

(c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".

II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.

IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.

V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553
Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service

VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

1 PAMELA E. COGAN (SBN 105089)
 2 JENNIFER A. WILLIAMS (SBN 244707)
 3 ROPERS, MAJESKI, KOHN & BENTLEY
 4 1001 Marshall Street, Suite 300
 5 Redwood City, CA 94063-2052
 Telephone: (650) 364-8200
 Facsimile: (650) 780-1701
 Email: pcogan@rmkb.com
jwilliams@rmkb.com

6 Attorneys for Defendant
 7 LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE
 COMPANY

8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 R&L BROSAMER, INC.,

11 Plaintiff,
 12 v.

13 LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE
 COMPANY; AND DOES 1-15,

14 Defendant.

CV 08 3607

(Formerly Contra Costa County Superior Court
 Case No. C08-01605)

DEFENDANT LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE
 INSURANCE COMPANY'S PETITION
 FOR REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTION
 UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b) [DIVERSITY
 JURISDICTION]

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
 [Fed. R. Civ. Proc., Rule 38(b)]

TO PLAINTIFF R&L BROSAMER, ITS ATTORNEY OF RECORD, AND THE
 CLERK OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that defendant LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE
 COMPANY ("Liberty Mutual") hereby removes to this Court the State Court action described
 below:

1. On June 16, 2008, plaintiff filed this action in the Superior Court for the State of
 California in and for the County of Contra Costa, case number C08-01605, entitled R&L
Brosamer v. Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

2. On June 26, 2008, plaintiff served by mail the Summons and Complaint on the
 registered agent of Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance

FILED
 02 JUL 23 PM 3:57 NY
 RICHARD W. WIEKING
 CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BZ

1 Company received the Summons and Complaint on June 27, 2008. The documents set forth in
2 Exhibit A constitute all of the process, pleadings, and orders received by Liberty Mutual Fire
3 Insurance Company, including a true and correct copy of the Summons and Complaint.

4 3. This action is a civil action over which this Court has original jurisdiction under 28
5 U.S.C. section 1332. This action may be removed to this Court by defendant pursuant to the
6 provisions of 28 U.S.C. section 1441, subdivision (b), because the amount in controversy exceeds
7 \$75,000 and there is complete diversity of citizenship between plaintiff and defendant. The
8 determination of citizenship for diversity purposes is governed by federal rather than state law.
9 (See, Rockwell Int'l Credit Corp. v. United States Aircraft Ins. Group, 823 F2d 302, 304 (9th Cir
10 1987), overruled on other grounds, Partington v. Gedan, 923 F2d 686 (9th Cir 1991).) The
11 citizenship of defendants sued under fictitious names, such as "Doe" defendants, is disregarded
12 for diversity jurisdiction purposes. (28 USC § 1441(a); Soliman v. Philip Morris, Inc., 311 F3d
13 966, 971 (9th Cir 2002).)

14 4. Plaintiff is a California corporation with its principal place of business and
15 headquarters located in Walnut Creek, California. (Declaration of Jennifer A. Williams,
16 ("Williams Decl."), ¶4.)

17 5. At all times relevant to the Complaint in this action, defendant Liberty Mutual has
18 been and is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, with its principle
19 place of business in Boston, Massachusetts. (Declaration of James Pugh ("Pugh Decl."), ¶ 3.)
20 Liberty Mutual's corporate headquarters and corporate officers are also located in Boston,
21 Massachusetts. (Pugh Decl., ¶3.) Thus, complete diversity exists between plaintiff and defendant
22 Liberty Mutual. (28 U.S.C. §1332(a)(1)(C)(1).)

23 6. The matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, because
24 plaintiff is seeking recovery of attorneys fees and costs incurred by plaintiff in the underlying
25 workers' compensation action and civil action, indemnity of any judgment rendered in the
26 underlying workers' compensation action and civil action, any consequential damages allegedly
27 sustained as a result of the underlying actions, and attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this
28 present action. (Complaint ¶ 17, 21.)

1 7. Under California law, an insured can recover attorney fees incurred to compel
2 payment of policy benefits as an element of damages, but only when an insurer tortiously
3 withholds benefits. (Brandt v. Superior Court, 37 Cal.3d 813, 817-819 (1985).) A claim for
4 attorneys' fees is included in determining the amount in controversy, regardless of whether the
5 fee award is mandatory or discretionary. (Galt G/X v. JSS Scandinavia, 142 F.3d 1150, 1155-
6 1156 (9th Cir. 1998); Morrison v. Allstate Indem. Co., 228 F.3d 1255, 1265 (11th Cir. 2000);
7 Conrad & Asso. v. Hartford Accident and Indem. Co., 994 F.Supp. 1196, 1199 (N.D. Cal. 1998).)

8 8. The Complaint also seeks punitive damages (Complaint ¶22), which alone, coupled
9 with the absence of any binding representation that plaintiff is seeking less than the jurisdictional
10 minimum, is sufficient to invoke diversity jurisdiction. (See, Gibson v. Chrysler Corp., 261 F.3d
11 927, 946 (9th Cir. 2001).)

12 9. On July 22, 2008, Liberty Mutual requested that plaintiff stipulate that it does not seek
13 to recover damages in excess of \$75,000 in this action. Liberty Mutual requested a response from
14 plaintiff by July 24, 2008. (Williams Decl., ¶2, Ex. A attached to Williams Decl.) On July 28,
15 2008, plaintiff notified Liberty Mutual that it would not stipulate that the amount in controversy
16 does not exceed \$75,000. (Williams Decl., ¶3.) As such, the amount in controversy exceeds the
17 sum of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

18 10. A copy of this Petition shall be contemporaneously filed in the office of the clerk for
19 the Superior Court of Contra Costa County.

20

21 Dated: July 28, 2008

ROPERS, MAJESKI, KOHN & BENTLEY

22 By: 

23
24 PAMELA E. COGAN
25 JENNIFER A. WILLIAMS.
26 Attorneys for Defendant LIBERTY
27 MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
28

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Defendant Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company hereby demands a trial by jury pursuant to Rule 38, subdivision (b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Dated: July ___, 2008

ROPERS, MAJESKI, KOHN & BENTLEY

By: _____
PAMELA E. COGAN
JENNIFER A. WILLIAMS.
Attorneys for Defendant LIBERTY
MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY



LYNCH, GILARDI & GRUMMER
A Professional Corporation

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SINCE 1978

June 26, 2008

Ms. Karen Harris
2730 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: *R & L Brosamer, Inc. v. Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Co., et al.*
Contra Costa County Superior Court Case No.: C08-01605

Dear Ms. Harris:

This office has filed the enclosed Summons and Complaint on behalf of R & L Brosamer, Inc. against Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company ("Liberty"). The California Department of Insurance names you as Liberty's registered agent for service of process. Accordingly, I have enclosed the Summons, the Complaint, and related court papers as listed in the enclosed "Notice of Acknowledgment", and I request that you sign the Notice and Acknowledgment on behalf of Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company as its designated agent for service of process. I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your use in returning the executed Notice of Acknowledgment.

If you have any questions, please contact either myself or Elisabeth Madden. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Wallace M. Tice

WMT/gdp
Enclosures

cc: Dean Pappas, Esq. (w/ encl.)

\Sfdata\Conversion\0871-0003\Counsel\178515.doc

POS-015

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY. (Name, State Bar number, and address): Elisabeth A. Madden, Esq. (SBN 131172) Wallace M. Tice, Esq. (SBN 88177) LYNCH, GILARDI & GRUMMER, APC 475 Sansome St., #1800 San Francisco, CA 94111 TELEPHONE NO.: 415-397-2800 FAX NO. (Optional): 415-397-0937 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): ATTORNEY FOR (Name): R & L Brosamer, Inc.		FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Contra Costa STREET ADDRESS: 725 Court Street MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 911 CITY AND ZIP CODE: Martinez, CA 94553 BRANCH NAME:		
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: R & L BROSAMER, INC.		
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO., and Does 1-15		
NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT—CIVIL		CASE NUMBER: CIVMSC08-01605

TO (insert name of party being served): Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company

NOTICE

The summons and other documents identified below are being served pursuant to section 415.30 of the California Code of Civil Procedure. Your failure to complete this form and return it within 20 days from the date of mailing shown below may subject you (or the party on whose behalf you are being served) to liability for the payment of any expenses incurred in serving a summons on you in any other manner permitted by law.

If you are being served on behalf of a corporation, an unincorporated association (including a partnership), or other entity, this form must be signed by you in the name of such entity or by a person authorized to receive service of process on behalf of such entity. In all other cases, this form must be signed by you personally or by a person authorized by you to acknowledge receipt of summons. If you return this form to the sender, service of a summons is deemed complete on the day you sign the acknowledgment of receipt below.

Date of mailing: June 26, 2008

Wallace M. Tice, Esq.

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF SENDER—MUST NOT BE A PARTY IN THIS CASE)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

This acknowledges receipt of (to be completed by sender before mailing):

- A copy of the summons and of the complaint.
- Other: (specify): Notice of Case Management Conference; Civil Case Cover Sheet; Notice to Defendants; Stipulation and Order to Attend ADR and Delay First Case Management Conference 90 days; Blank Case Management Statement; and ADR Information Packet

(To be completed by recipient):

Date this form is signed: July , 2008

(TYPE OR PRINT YOUR NAME AND NAME OF ENTITY, IF ANY,
 ON WHOSE BEHALF THIS FORM IS SIGNED)(SIGNATURE OF PERSON ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT, WITH TITLE IF
 ACKNOWLEDGMENT IS MADE ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON OR ENTITY)

EAM

SUPERIOR COURT - MARTINEZ
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA
MARTINEZ, CA, 94553

R&L BROSAMER INC. VS. LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INS. CO.

NOTICE OF CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

CIVMSC08-01605

1. NOTICE: THE CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR:

DATE: 11/03/08 DEPT: 02 TIME: 8:30

THIS FORM, A COPY OF THE NOTICE TO PLAINTIFFS, THE ADR INFORMATION SHEET, A BLANK CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE, AND A BLANK STIPULATION FORM ARE TO BE SERVED ON OPPOSING PARTIES. ALL PARTIES SERVED WITH SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT/CROSS-COMPLAINT OR THEIR ATTORNEY OF RECORD MUST APPEAR.

2. You may stipulate to an earlier Case Management Conference. If all parties agree to an early Case Management Conference, please contact the Court Clerk's Office at (925)957-5794 for Unlimited Civil cases and (925)957-5791 for Limited Civil cases for assignment of an earlier date.

3. You must be familiar with the case and be fully prepared to participate effectively in the Case Management Conference and to discuss the suitability of this case for the EASE Program, private mediation, binding or non-binding arbitration, and/or use of a Special Master.

4. At any Case Management Conference the court may make pretrial orders including the following:

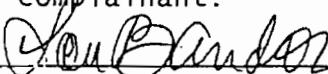
- a. an order establishing a discovery schedule
- b. an order referring the case to arbitration
- c. an order transferring the case to limited jurisdiction
- d. an order dismissing fictitious defendants
- e. an order scheduling exchange of expert witness information
- f. an order setting subsequent conference and the trial date
- g. an order consolidating cases
- h. an order severing trial of cross-complaints or bifurcating issues
- i. an order determining when demurrers and motions will be filed

SANCTIONS

If you do not file the Case Management Conference Questionnaire or attend the Case Management Conference or participate effectively in the Conference, the court may impose sanctions (including dismissal of the case and payment of money).

Clerk of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County
I declare under penalty of perjury that I am not a party to this
action, and that I delivered or mailed a copy of this notice to the
person representing the plaintiff/cross-complainant.

Dated: 06/19/08



L. BANDOMA, Deputy Clerk

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)

SUM-100

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:**(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):**

Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Co., and Does 1-15

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

R & L Brosamer, Inc.

FOR COURT USE ONLY
(SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

F I L E D

JUN 16 2008

K. TORRE CLERK OF THE COURT
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

By _____ Deputy Clerk

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

The name and address of the court is:

(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
Contra Costa County Superior Court
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 911
Martinez, CA 94553

CASE NUMBER:
(Número del Caso)

C 08 - 01605

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:

(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Elisabeth A. Madden, Esq. (SBN 131172) 415-397-2800 415-397-0937
LYNCH, GILARDI & GRUMMER, APC
475 Sansome St., #1800
San Francisco, CA 94111

DATE: **JUN 16 2008**

Clerk, by Lou Bandoma, Deputy
(Secretario) (Adjunto)

(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)
(Para prueba de entrega de esta citación use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)).

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

1. as an individual defendant.
2. as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):

3. on behalf of (specify):

under:	<input type="checkbox"/> CCP 416.10 (corporation)	<input type="checkbox"/> CCP 416.60 (minor)
	<input type="checkbox"/> CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation)	<input type="checkbox"/> CCP 416.70 (conservatee)
	<input type="checkbox"/> CCP 416.40 (association or partnership)	<input type="checkbox"/> CCP 416.90 (authorized person)
	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify):	

4. by personal delivery on (date):

F I L E D

JUN 16 2008

K. TORRE CLERK OF THE COURT
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

By _____, Deputy Clerk

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

10 R&L BROSAMER, INC.,

Case No.: C 08 - 01605

11 Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT FOR BREACH OF

12

13 LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE
14 COMPANY; AND DOES 1-15

COMPLAINT FOR BREACH OF
CONTRACT, BREACH OF THE
COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR
DEALING, AND DECLARATORY RELIEF

15 Defendants.

PER LOCAL RULES 5 THIS
CASE IS ASSIGNED TO
DEPT. *OZ*

17 R&L BROSAMER, INC. (herein, "Plaintiff") hereby complains against defendants and
18 alleges as follows:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

20 1. On or about December 19, 2006, Jaime Vidal Salmeron suffered a fatal accident
21 during the process of loading or unloading a truck at Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International
22 Airport, Renzell Field (“Airport”), in San Jose, California (“the Accident”). At the time of the
23 Accident, Plaintiff acted as general contractor on a construction project at the Airport, and it
24 hired Sebring Transport to provide trucks and truck drivers to transport equipment from the
25 Airport job site to Plaintiff’s facility in Tracey. Sebring Transport then contacted Dale Stailing,
26 d.b.a. S & S RV, to supply the drivers and trucks to fulfill Plaintiff’s transportation job, and Mr.
27 Salmeron drove one of the trucks provided by Stailing. On or about December 21, 2006, Joni

1 Aranda, personally and on behalf of minor Angel Salmeron Aranda, initiated a Workers
 2 Compensation Appeals Board case entitled *Salmeron v. R&L Brosamer, Inc., et al.*, Case No.
 3 OAK 0333041, ("Worker's Comp Action") and sought worker's compensation benefits against
 4 Plaintiff and its worker's compensation carrier, Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company
 5 ("Liberty"). Claimant in the Worker's Comp Action alleged that Plaintiff was a special
 6 employer of decedent Salmeron at the time of the accident.

7 2. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that at all times
 8 mentioned herein defendant Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company ("Liberty") was a
 9 Wisconsin corporation with a principal place of business in Boston, Massachusetts, and was
 10 authorized to do, and doing business as an insurer in the State of California.

11 3. That the true names and/or capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or
 12 otherwise, of the defendants sued herein, DOES 1 through 15, inclusive, are unknown to
 13 plaintiff, who therefore sues said defendants by such fictitious names and will ask relief to
 14 amend this Complaint to show their true names and capacities when the same have been
 15 ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that defendants DOES 1
 16 through 15, and each of them, were involved and participated, or caused and contributed to the
 17 events and damages which form the basis for this Complaint.

18 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that at all times
 19 herein mentioned, defendants, and each of them, were the agents, employees, servants, or joint
 20 venturers of each of the remaining defendants named herein, each acting in the scope of its
 21 authority as such agent, employee, servant, or joint venturer with the permission and consent of
 22 each of their co-defendants; and each fictitiously named defendant is in some way as yet
 23 unknown to plaintiff legally responsible for the damages hereinafter pleaded. Plaintiff will pray
 24 leave of the Court to amend this Complaint to show such matter when the same has been
 25 ascertained.

26 5. Following receipt of the Worker's Comp Action, Plaintiff tendered it to Liberty
 27 for defense and indemnity under Policy No. WC2-161-065094-016 ("the Policy"), which

1 provided Plaintiff with worker's compensation and employer's liability protection for claims by
2 its employees. Liberty retained David W. Hughes, Esq. and the law firm of Laughlin, Falbo,
3 Levy & Moresi, LLP ("Retained Counsel") to represent Plaintiff and Liberty in the Worker's
4 Comp Action.

5 6. In October and November 2007, following factual and legal investigation of the
6 Accident, Plaintiff asked Retained Counsel to file a response to the Worker's Comp Action that
7 admitted a special employment relationship between Plaintiff and Mr. Salmeron at the time of
8 the Accident. Without explanation or citation to any facts to support its conclusion that Mr.
9 Salmeron was not Plaintiff's dual or special employee, and despite Retained and House
10 Counsel's evaluations of special employment as a viable theory in the Worker's Comp Action,
11 Liberty asserted that Plaintiff had "absolutely no liability", and it directed David Hughes,
12 Retained Counsel, not to admit the special employment relationship with Mr. Salmeron. Liberty
13 also directed Retained Counsel to "control" the upcoming deposition of one of Plaintiff's
14 employees. Plaintiff asked Liberty to provide its factual support and/or legal analysis to support
15 their position of "absolutely no liability." Liberty never responded. Plaintiff asked Liberty
16 whether Liberty would deny coverage if Plaintiff admitted the special employment relationship.
17 Liberty never responded.

18 7. At a hearing in the Workers Comp action, Retained Counsel announced that he
19 would be withdrawing from the action because of his conflict of interest between Plaintiff and
20 Liberty. Plaintiff asked Liberty to authorize and to pay for independent counsel, John J. Parente,
21 Esq. ("Independent Counsel"), and to advise Plaintiff regarding Liberty's coverage position.
22 Plaintiff advised Liberty of Mr. Parente's qualifications and billing rates. Liberty never
23 responded. Thereafter, Retained Counsel resigned as counsel for Plaintiff and Liberty because of
24 the continuing conflict of interest.

25 8. On November 29, 2007, despite the continuing conflict of interest between
26 Liberty and Plaintiff, Liberty hired its internal company firm of Santana & Hart ("House
27 Counsel") to represent Liberty in the Worker's Comp Action. Plaintiff asked Liberty who
28

1 Santana & Hart was representing in the Workers' Comp Action. Again, Liberty did not respond.
 2 Plaintiff sought confirmation that Liberty would pay for Independent Counsel. Liberty did not
 3 respond. Retained Counsel, who was withdrawing from the Workers' Comp action, prepared
 4 two Substitution of Attorney forms for Liberty to substitute Santana & Hart, Liberty's House
 5 Counsel to represent Liberty only in the Worker's Comp Action, and to substitute John Parente,
 6 as Independent Counsel, to represent Plaintiff. The parties signed their respective Substitutions,
 7 and those Substitutions were filed and served on all parties, including Liberty, in December
 8 2007. Santana & Hart, Liberty's House Counsel, never contacted Plaintiff at any time.

9 9. Thereafter, with Liberty's full knowledge, Independent Counsel represented
 10 Plaintiff and incurred fees and costs in the Worker's Comp Action. Independent Counsel sent
 11 Liberty the bills for fees and costs incurred. House Counsel never communicated with Plaintiff
 12 or Independent Counsel; however, House Counsel communicated with Claimant's Counsel.
 13 House Counsel represented only Liberty and took actions detrimental to Plaintiff's interests and
 14 unauthorized by Plaintiff in the Worker's Comp Action.

15 10. On January 24, 2008, Mr. Salmeron's heirs sued Plaintiff as a defendant in a
 16 civil action entitled *Salmeron v. R&L Brosamer, Inc., et al.*, Case No. C-08-000163, ("Civil
 17 Action"), which is venued in the Superior Court in the County of Contra Costa, and which
 18 concerns the same Accident addressed in the Worker's Comp Action. Plaintiff notified Liberty
 19 of the Civil Action and again asked Liberty to pay the fees and costs that Independent counsel
 20 had incurred in the Worker's Comp Action with Liberty's full knowledge and consent.

21 11. On April 18, 2008, without having responded for more than four months to
 22 Plaintiff's inquiries about Policy coverage and the retention of Independent Counsel, Liberty
 23 claimed for the first time that Santana & Hart, Liberty's House Counsel, was also representing
 24 Plaintiff in the Worker's Comp Action, and it refused to pay Independent Counsel's fees and
 25 costs. Liberty claimed that House Counsel represented Plaintiff even though it signed the
 26 Substitution that identified only Liberty as House Counsel's client. Liberty declined to pay
 27 Independent Counsel despite its conflict of interest with Plaintiff in the Worker's Comp Action,
 28

1 and in spite of its knowledge that Plaintiff had hired Independent Counsel in reliance upon its
2 right to Independent Counsel because of the conflict. Despite numerous Plaintiff requests for
3 clarification of its position, as well as the receipt of Independent Counsel's accruing bills,
4 Liberty waited over four months to convey its refusal to pay him. On May 28, 2008, Liberty
5 finally agreed to "negotiate" with Independent Counsel regarding his bills, but only if Plaintiff
6 would accept House Counsel to represent both Plaintiff and Liberty in the Worker's Comp
7 Action.

8 12. On May 6, 2008, Liberty notified Plaintiff that it denied coverage of the Civil
9 Action under the Policy, on the grounds that the Complaint allegations did not create the
10 potential for coverage, as Plaintiff was not Mr. Salmeron's employer on the date of the Accident.
11 Liberty refused to accept its obligation to defend Plaintiff in the Civil Action, even though (1)
12 Claimant's in the Workers' Comp Action had alleged that Plaintiff was decedent's special
13 employer, (2) the Complaint in the Civil Action alleged that Plaintiff had "complete control"
14 over the loading and unloading operations at the time of the Accident, and (3) Liberty's own
15 investigation of the Accident showed facts and law to support a special employment relationship
16 between Plaintiff and decedent.

17 13. In April of 2008, Plaintiff was notified that Liberty had retained coverage counsel
18 to review and respond to their inquiries. Plaintiff was advised that all communications with
19 Liberty should be through and with coverage counsel. Accordingly, Plaintiff directed previous
20 inquiries regarding policy coverage and legal representation to Liberty's coverage counsel.
21 Approximately two months later, on June 8, 2008, Plaintiff was advised that Liberty still had not
22 authorized coverage counsel to respond to Plaintiff's inquiries regarding the status of its legal
23 representation and coverage.

24 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION: BREACHES OF INSURING AGREEMENTS**

25 14. Plaintiff refers to and incorporates by reference each and every allegation of
26 paragraphs 1 through 13 of this Complaint as though set forth herein in full.

27 15. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the Policy obligates

1 Liberty to provide full and independent defenses of the Worker's Comp Action and the Civil
 2 Action, and to be indemnified by Liberty for any award, judgment or settlement on Plaintiff's
 3 behalf in the Worker's Comp Action and the Civil Action.

4 16. Plaintiff has tendered, and hereby retenders, its defense and indemnity of the
 5 claims in the Worker's Comp Action and the Civil Action to Liberty. Liberty has wrongfully
 6 failed to provide full and independent defenses of the Worker's Comp Action, or refused to
 7 accept those tenders of the Civil Action.

8 17. Plaintiff alleges that as a proximate and legal cause of those refusals to provide
 9 full and independent defenses of the Worker's Comp Action, or to accept those tenders of the
 10 Civil Action, Plaintiff has and will incur attorneys' fees and other costs in defending the
 11 Worker's Comp Action and the Civil Action, and that Liberty is liable for all attorneys' fees and
 12 costs that Plaintiff has or will incur and has breached the Policy insuring agreements, causing
 13 injury and damage to Plaintiff.

14 18. Based upon the acts of the defendants, Plaintiff has suffered damages, in an
 15 amount according to proof.

16 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION: BREACH OF THE IMPLIED COVENANT OF GOOD**
 17 **FAITH AND FAIR DEALING**

18 19. Plaintiff refers to and incorporates by reference each and every allegation of
 19 paragraphs 1 through 17 of this complaint as though set forth herein in full.

20 20. By, among other things, failing to pay for Independent Counsel in the Worker's
 21 Comp Action, failing to provide legal representation to Plaintiff in the Worker's Comp Action after
 22 withdrawal of Retained Counsel, failing to communicate with its insured regarding Policy benefits
 23 despite numerous inquiries, taking action in the Worker's Comp Action detrimental to Plaintiff and
 24 only to benefit itself, and failing to accept Plaintiff's tender of defense of the Civil Action, Liberty
 25 has breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing owed to Plaintiff under the terms
 26 of the Policy.

27 21. As a proximate result of Liberty's bad faith conduct, Plaintiff has suffered damages

1 and is entitled to recover from Liberty the full amount of Independent Counsel's fees and costs, any
 2 judgment rendered in the Civil Action, any consequential damages incurred by the financial
 3 hardship inflicted upon Liberty as a result of being compelled to pay Independent Counsel and to
 4 satisfy the Civil Action judgment, attorneys' fees incurred in the pursuit by Plaintiff of Policy
 5 benefits owed by Liberty, and other damages which as yet have not been fully ascertained.

6 22. Liberty's conduct described herein was done with a conscious disregard of the
 7 rights of Plaintiff and with the intent to vex, injure or annoy such as to constitute oppression, fraud
 8 or malice under California Civil Code §3294, entitling Plaintiff to punitive damages in an amount
 9 appropriate to punish or set an example of Liberty.

10 THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION: DECLARATORY RELIEF

11 23. Plaintiff refers to and incorporates by reference each and every allegation of
 12 paragraphs 1 through 21 of this complaint as though set forth herein in full.

13 24. There presently exists a dispute and controversy over the rights, liabilities and
 14 duties of the various parties hereto under the Policy. Plaintiff seeks a determination of the rights,
 15 liabilities and duties of the parties herein.

16 25. Plaintiff contends that defendants, and each of them, are obligated to defend and
 17 indemnify Plaintiff against the loss, liability, cost and expense including attorneys' fees incurred or
 18 suffered by Plaintiff by reason of the matters alleged in the Worker's Comp Action and the Civil
 19 Action. Defendants and each of them dispute these contentions and contend that they are not
 20 obligated to indemnify, to defend or to reimburse Plaintiff.

21 26. Plaintiff desires a judicial determination of its rights herein and a declaration that
 22 Plaintiff is entitled to be indemnified by defendants and each of them in whole, or in part as measured
 23 by their obligations and the extent of damages caused by their acts and/or omissions.

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, R&L BROSAMER, INC. prays for judgments against defendants, and each of them, as follows:

1. A declaration of the rights and duties of the parties;
2. For a judgment by way of indemnification for any sum adjudged against or paid on behalf of Plaintiff in the Worker's Comp Action and the Civil Action, if any;
3. Costs and attorney's fees incurred in the defense of the Worker's Comp Action and the Civil Action and in the prosecution of this Complaint;
4. For punitive damages in an amount appropriate to punish or set an example of Liberty, and
5. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED: June 13, 2008

LYNCH, GILARDI & GRUMMER
A Professional Corporation

By Elisabeth A. Madden
Elisabeth A. Madden
Wallace M. Tice
Attorneys for Plaintiff
R&L BROSAMER, INC.

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CM-010

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Elisabeth A. Madden, Esq. (SBN 131172) LYNCH, GILARDI & GRUMMER, APC 475 Sansome St., #1800		FOR COURT USE ONLY
San Francisco, CA 94111 TELEPHONE NO: 415-397-2800 FAX NO: 415-397-0937 ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Defendant, R. & L. Brosamer		F I L E D JUN 16 2008 K. TOKRE CLERK OF THE COURT SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA By Deputy Clerk C 0 8 - 0 1 6 0 5
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Contra Costa STREET ADDRESS: 725 Court Street MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 911 CITY AND ZIP CODE: Martinez, CA 94553 BRANCH NAME:		
CASE NAME: R&L Brosamer, Inc. v. Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Co., and Does 1 - 15		CASE NUMBER:
CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unlimited (Amount demanded exceeds \$25,000) <input type="checkbox"/> Limited (Amount demanded is \$25,000 or less)		Complex Case Designation <input type="checkbox"/> Counter <input type="checkbox"/> Joinder Filed with first appearance by defendant (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402)

Items 1-6 below must be completed (see instructions on page 2).

1. Check one box below for the case type that best describes this case:																																													
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Auto Tort</td> <td>Contract</td> <td>Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Auto (22)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Breach of contract/warranty (06)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust/Trade regulation (03)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Uninsured motorist (46)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Rule 3.740 collections (09)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Construction defect (10)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other collections (09)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Mass tort (40)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos (04)</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage (18)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Securities litigation (28)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Product liability (24)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other contract (37)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental/Toxic tort (30)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Medical malpractice (45)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Real Property</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage claims arising from the above listed provisionally complex case types (41)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other PI/PD/WD (23)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Eminent domain/Inverse condemnation (14)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful eviction (33)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Business tort/unfair business practice (07)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other real property (26)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Civil rights (08)</td> <td>Unlawful Detainer</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Defamation (13)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial (31)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Fraud (16)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Residential (32)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual property (19)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Drugs (38)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Professional negligence (25)</td> <td>Judicial Review</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other non-PI/PD/WD tort (35)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Asset forfeiture (05)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employment</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Petition re: arbitration award (11)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful termination (36)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Writ of mandate (02)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other employment (15)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other judicial review (39)</td> </tr> </table>	Auto Tort	Contract	Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Auto (22)	<input type="checkbox"/> Breach of contract/warranty (06)	<input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust/Trade regulation (03)	<input type="checkbox"/> Uninsured motorist (46)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rule 3.740 collections (09)	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction defect (10)	Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort	<input type="checkbox"/> Other collections (09)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mass tort (40)	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos (04)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage (18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Securities litigation (28)	<input type="checkbox"/> Product liability (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other contract (37)	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental/Toxic tort (30)	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical malpractice (45)	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage claims arising from the above listed provisionally complex case types (41)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other PI/PD/WD (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Eminent domain/Inverse condemnation (14)	Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort	<input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful eviction (33)	<input type="checkbox"/> Business tort/unfair business practice (07)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other real property (26)	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil rights (08)	Unlawful Detainer	<input type="checkbox"/> Defamation (13)	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial (31)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fraud (16)	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential (32)	<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual property (19)	<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs (38)	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional negligence (25)	Judicial Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Other non-PI/PD/WD tort (35)	<input type="checkbox"/> Asset forfeiture (05)	Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition re: arbitration award (11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful termination (36)	<input type="checkbox"/> Writ of mandate (02)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other employment (15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other judicial review (39)
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2. This case is is not complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court. If the case is complex, mark the factors requiring exceptional judicial management:

- Large number of separately represented parties
- Extensive motion practice raising difficult or novel issues that will be time-consuming to resolve
- Substantial amount of documentary evidence
- Large number of witnesses
- Coordination with related actions pending in one or more courts in other counties, states, or countries, or in a federal court
- Substantial postjudgment judicial supervision

3. Remedies sought (check all that apply): a. monetary b. nonmonetary; declaratory or injunctive relief c. punitive

4. Number of causes of action (specify): Three (3)

5. This case is is not a class action suit.

6. If there are any known related cases, file and serve a notice of related case. (You may use form CM-015.)

Date: June 13, 2008

Elisabeth A. Madden, Esq. (SBN 131172)

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)


(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR PARTY)
NOTICE

- Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the first paper filed in the action or proceeding (except small claims cases or cases filed under the Probate Code, Family Code, or Welfare and Institutions Code). (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may result in sanctions.
- File this cover sheet in addition to any cover sheet required by local court rule.
- If this case is complex under rule 3.400 et seq. of the California Rules of Court, you must serve a copy of this cover sheet on all other parties to the action or proceeding.
- Unless this is a collections case under rule 3.740 or a complex case, this cover sheet will be used for statistical purposes only.

Page 1 of 2

Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa**NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS**
In Unlimited Jurisdiction Civil Actions**YOU ARE BEING SUED.** The packet you have been served should contain:

- a. The Summons
- b. The Complaint
- c. The Notice of Case Management (shows hearing date and time)
- d. Blank: Case Management Statement (Judicial Council Form CM-110)
- e. Blank: Stipulation and Order to Attend ADR and Delay First Case Management Conference 90 Days (Local Court Form CV-655b)
- f. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Information (Local Court Form CV-655c)

WHAT DO I DO NOW?**You must:**

1. **Prepare your response** YOU COULD LOSE YOUR CASE—even before it is heard by a judge or before you can defend yourself, if you do not prepare and file a response on time. See the other side of this page for types of responses you can prepare.
2. **Complete the Case Management Statement (CM-110)**
3. **File and serve your court papers on time** Once your court forms are complete, you must file 1 original and 2 copies of the forms at court. An adult who is NOT involved in your case must serve one set of forms on the Plaintiff. If you were served in person you must file your response in 30 days. If the server left a copy of the papers with an adult living at your home or an adult in charge at your work or you received a copy by mail you must file your response in 40 days.
4. **Prove you served your court papers on time** by having your server complete a *Proof of Service*, (Judicial Council form POS-040), that must be filed at the court within 60 days.
5. **Go to court** on the date and time given in the *Notice of Case Management Conference*.
6. **Consider trying to settle your case before trial** If you and the other party to the case can agree to use mediation, arbitration or neutral case evaluation, the *Stipulation and Order to Attend ADR and Delay First Case Management Conference 90 Days* can be filed with your other papers. For more information read the enclosed ADR information, visit www.cc-courts.org/adr, or call (925) 957-5787.

IMPORTANT! The court recommends consulting an attorney for all or part of your case. While you may represent yourself, lawsuits can be complicated, and the court cannot give you legal advice.

COURT FEES: You must pay court fees the first time you file your papers. If you also file a motion, you must pay another fee. If you cannot afford the fees, you may ask the court to waive (allow you not to pay) fees. Use Judicial Council forms FW-001-INFO [information sheet]; FW-001 [application]; and FW-003 [order].

COURT FORMS: Buy forms at the Forms Window in the Family Law Building or download them for free at: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms/

WHAT KIND OF RESPONSES CAN I FILE?

1. If you disagree with some or all of what the plaintiff says in the complaint because you believe, or know it is not true, you can file an ANSWER.
2. If you have a claim in the same case against the plaintiff, you may file a CROSS-COMPLAINT.
3. If you want to ask the court to do something on your behalf, you may file a MOTION (See TYPES OF MOTIONS below)

HOW DO I PREPARE AN ANSWER?

There are two kinds of Answers you can use, depending on whether the Complaint was verified. You can tell if a Complaint is verified because it says "Verified Complaint" and/or has a signed oath on the last page.

For complaints that are NOT verified:

Use Judicial Council form PLD-050 – General Denial

For complaints that ARE verified:

- a. For personal injury, property damage, and wrongful death claims, use Judicial Council PLD-PI-003 (do not check number 2).
- b. For contract claims, use Judicial Council PLD-C-010 (do not check number 3a).
- c. Be sure to deny every claim with which you disagree. For example, you might write: "*I believe, or know, that the information in paragraph #__ is untrue/incorrect.*" Continue your list until you have addressed each paragraph in the Complaint.

NOTE: The Judicial Council Answer forms have spaces for your affirmative defenses. Be sure to include them or you may not be able to use them later. To find out what your affirmative defenses might be, go to the law library and ask the librarian to help you find the information you need.

If you want to file a Cross-Complaint, you must do so at the same time you file the Answer.

- a. For a personal injury, property damage, and/or wrongful death Cross-Complaint, use Judicial Council form PLD-PI-002.
- b. For a contract Cross-Complaint, use Judicial Council PLD-C-001.

TYPES OF MOTIONS

Written motions are documents that ask the court to do something. You may have to file an Answer at the same time. At this point in the case, you can only make Motions from the following list:

1. Demurrer (*the facts stated in the complaint are wrong, or the deadline to file the lawsuit has passed*);
2. Motion to Strike (*the complaint is unclear; does not follow the law, "doesn't matter", etc.*);
3. Motion to Transfer (*the complaint is in the wrong court or there's a more appropriate court*);
4. Motion to Quash Service of Summons (*you were not legally served*);
5. Motion to Stay (*put the case on hold*); or
6. Motion to Dismiss (*stops the case*).

NOTE: Motions are very complicated and you may want to hire a lawyer to help you.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE HELP?

- Lawyer Referral Service: (925) 825-5700
- Bay Area Legal Aid: (800) 551-5554
- Contra Costa County Law Library Martinez: (925) 646-2783 Richmond: (510) 374-3019
- Ask the Law Librarian: www.247ref.org/portal/access_law3.cfm

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA**

Plaintiff(s)

Defendant(s)

Stipulation and Order to Attend ADR and Delay First Case Management Conference 90 Days

Case No.: _____ Date complaint filed: _____ First case management conference set for: _____

- ▶ **ALL PARTIES MUST SIGN THIS FORM AND FILE THIS STIPULATION, WITH CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENTS, AT LEAST 15 DAYS BEFORE THE FIRST CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**
- ▶ **PARTIES MUST ALSO SEND A COPY OF THE FORM WITH THE JUDGE'S SIGNATURE TO THE ADR OFFICE: FAX: (925) 957-5689 or MAIL: P.O. BOX 911, MARTINEZ, CA 94553**
- ▶ **THIS STIPULATION MAY NOT BE USED IN COMPLEX LITIGATION CASES**

Counsel and all parties certify they have met and conferred on the subjects set forth in Rule of Court 212(b), and have selected the following alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process: [check box]:

- Judicial mediation
- Judicial arbitration
- Neutral case evaluation
- Private mediation
- Private arbitration

COUNSEL AND ALL PARTIES AGREE TO COMPLETE ADR WITHIN 90 DAYS, AND CERTIFY:

1. This is not a complex civil case (as described in California Rules of Court, Rule 3.400);
2. All parties have been served and intend to submit to the jurisdiction of the court;
3. All parties have agreed to a specific plan for sufficient discovery to make the ADR process meaningful;
4. Defendant(s)' first appearance fee has been paid or will be submitted with this Stipulation;
5. Copies of this Stipulation and self-addressed stamped envelopes are provided for returning file-stamped copies to counsel and the parties;
6. Case Management Conference Statements are submitted with this Stipulation;
7. All parties will attend ADR conferences as required by local court rule (Appendix C); and,
8. All parties know the court will not allow more than 90 days to complete ADR.

Counsel for Plaintiff (print) **Fax**

Fax

Counsel for Defendant (print)

Fax

Signature

Signature

Counsel for Plaintiff (print) **Fax**

Counsel for Defendant (print) _____

Signature

Signature

Pursuant to the Stipulation of the parties, and subject to the Case Management Order to be filed, IT IS SO ORDERED that the Case Management Conference set for _____ is vacated and rescheduled for _____ at (8:30 a.m. / _____) Plaintiff's counsel must notify all parties of the case management conference.

Dated: _____

Judge of the Superior Court

CM-110

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address):		FOR COURT USE ONLY	
TELEPHONE NO.:			
FAX NO. (Optional):			
E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional):			
ATTORNEY FOR (Name):			
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF			
STREET ADDRESS:			
MAILING ADDRESS:			
CITY AND ZIP CODE:			
BRANCH NAME:			
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER:			
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:			
CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT		CASE NUMBER:	
(Check one): <input type="checkbox"/> UNLIMITED CASE <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED CASE (Amount demanded exceeds \$25,000) (Amount demanded is \$25,000 or less)			
A CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE is scheduled as follows:			
Date:	Time:	Dept.:	Div.:
Room:			
Address of court (if different from the address above):			

INSTRUCTIONS: All applicable boxes must be checked, and the specified information must be provided.

1. **Party or parties (answer one):**
 - This statement is submitted by party (name):
 - This statement is submitted jointly by parties (names):
2. **Complaint and cross-complaint (to be answered by plaintiffs and cross-complainants only)**
 - a. The Complaint was filed on (date):
 - b. The cross-complaint, if any, was filed on (date):
3. **Service (to be answered by plaintiffs and cross-complainants only)**
 - a. All parties named in the complaint and cross-complaint have been served, or have appeared, or have been dismissed.
 - b. The following parties named in the complaint or cross-complaint
 - have not been served (specify names and explain why not):
 - have been served but have not appeared and have not been dismissed (specify names):
 - have had a default entered against them (specify names):
 - c. The following additional parties may be added (specify names, nature of involvement in case, and the date by which they may be served):
4. **Description of case**
 - a. Type of case in complaint cross-complaint (describe, including causes of action):

CM-110

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER:	CASE NUMBER:
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:	

4. b. Provide a brief statement of the case, including any damages. (If personal injury damages are sought, specify the injury and damages claimed, including medical expenses to date [indicate source and amount], estimated future medical expenses, lost earnings to date, and estimated future lost earnings. If equitable relief is sought, describe the nature of the relief.)

(If more space is needed, check this box and attach a page designated as Attachment 4b.)

5. **Jury or nonjury trial**

The party or parties request a jury trial a nonjury trial (if more than one party, provide the name of each party requesting a jury trial):

6. **Trial date**

a. The trial has been set for (date):
 b. No trial date has been set. This case will be ready for trial within 12 months of the date of the filing of the complaint (if not, explain):

c. Dates on which parties or attorneys will not be available for trial (specify dates and explain reasons for unavailability):

7. **Estimated length of trial**

The party or parties estimate that the trial will take (check one):

a. days (specify number):
 b. hours (short causes) (specify):

8. **Trial representation (to be answered for each party)**

The party or parties will be represented at trial by the attorney or party listed in the caption by the following:

a. Attorney:
 b. Firm:
 c. Address:
 d. Telephone number:
 e. Fax number:
 f. E-mail address:
 g. Party represented:
 Additional representation is described in Attachment 8.

9. **Preference**

This case is entitled to preference (specify code section):

10. **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**

a. Counsel has has not provided the ADR information package identified in rule 3.221 to the client and has reviewed ADR options with the client.
 b. All parties have agreed to a form of ADR. ADR will be completed by (date):
 c. The case has gone to an ADR process (Indicate status):

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PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER:	CASE NUMBER:
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:	

10. d. The party or parties are willing to participate in (check all that apply):

- (1) Mediation
- (2) Nonbinding judicial arbitration under Code of Civil Procedure section 1141.12 (discovery to close 15 days before arbitration under Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.822)
- (3) Nonbinding judicial arbitration under Code of Civil Procedure section 1141.12 (discovery to remain open until 30 days before trial; order required under Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.822)
- (4) Binding judicial arbitration
- (5) Binding private arbitration
- (6) Neutral case evaluation
- (7) Other (specify):

e. This matter is subject to mandatory judicial arbitration because the amount in controversy does not exceed the statutory limit.f. Plaintiff elects to refer this case to judicial arbitration and agrees to limit recovery to the amount specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1141.11.g. This case is exempt from judicial arbitration under rule 3.811 of the California Rules of Court (specify exemption):

11. Settlement conference

 The party or parties are willing to participate in an early settlement conference (specify when):

12. Insurance

a. Insurance carrier, if any, for party filing this statement (name):b. Reservation of rights: Yes Noc. Coverage issues will significantly affect resolution of this case (explain):

13. Jurisdiction

Indicate any matters that may affect the court's jurisdiction or processing of this case, and describe the status.

 Bankruptcy Other (specify):

Status:

14. Related cases, consolidation, and coordination

a. There are companion, underlying, or related cases.

(1) Name of case:

(2) Name of court:

(3) Case number:

(4) Status:

 Additional cases are described in Attachment 14a.b. A motion to consolidate coordinate will be filed by (name party):

15. Bifurcation

 The party or parties intend to file a motion for an order bifurcating, severing, or coordinating the following issues or causes of action (specify moving party, type of motion, and reasons):

16. Other motions

 The party or parties expect to file the following motions before trial (specify moving party, type of motion, and issues):

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PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER:	CASE NUMBER:
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:	

17. **Discovery**

- a. The party or parties have completed all discovery.
- b. The following discovery will be completed by the date specified (describe all anticipated discovery):

Party	Description	Date
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- c. The following discovery issues are anticipated (specify):

18. **Economic Litigation**

- a. This is a limited civil case (i.e., the amount demanded is \$25,000 or less) and the economic litigation procedures in Code of Civil Procedure sections 90 through 98 will apply to this case.
- b. This is a limited civil case and a motion to withdraw the case from the economic litigation procedures or for additional discovery will be filed (if checked, explain specifically why economic litigation procedures relating to discovery or trial should not apply to this case):

19. **Other issues**

- The party or parties request that the following additional matters be considered or determined at the case management conference (specify):

20. **Meet and confer**

- a. The party or parties have met and conferred with all parties on all subjects required by rule 3.724 of the California Rules of Court (if not, explain):
- b. After meeting and conferring as required by rule 3.724 of the California Rules of Court, the parties agree on the following (specify):

21. **Case management orders**

Previous case management orders in this case are (check one): none attached as Attachment 21.

22. Total number of pages attached (if any): _____

I am completely familiar with this case and will be fully prepared to discuss the status of discovery and ADR, as well as other issues raised by this statement, and will possess the authority to enter into stipulations on these issues at the time of the case management conference, including the written authority of the party where required.

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY)

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY)

Additional signatures are attached



**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) INFORMATION**

All judges in the Civil Trial Delay Reduction Program agree that parties should consider using Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to settle their cases. To tell the court you will use ADR:

- Choose ADR on the *Case Management Form (CM-110)*;
- File a *Stipulation and Order to Attend ADR and Continue First Case Management Conference 90-Days* (local court form); or
- Agree to ADR at your first court appearance.

Questions? Call (925) 957-5787, or go to www.cc-courts.org/adr

MEDIATION

Mediation is often faster and less expensive than going to trial. Mediators help people who have a dispute talk about ways they can settle their case. Parties call or visit the ADR Programs office to get a list of mediators. After parties have agreed on a mediator, they must write a summary (5 pages or less) explaining the facts, legal arguments, and legal authority for their position. They must send this summary to the other parties and the mediator at least 5 court days before mediation starts.

ALL parties and attorneys must go to mediation. Mediation can be held whenever and wherever the parties and the mediator want, as long as they finish before the court deadline. In some kinds of court cases, parties have the chance to mediate in the courthouse on their trial day.

Most mediators begin by talking with the parties together, helping them focus on the important issues. The mediator may also meet with each party alone. Mediators often ask parties for their ideas about how to settle the case. Some mediators tell the parties how much money they think a case is worth, or tell them what they think might happen if the case went to trial. Other mediators help the parties decide these things for themselves. No matter what approach a mediator takes, decisions about settling a case can only be made when all the parties agree.

If the parties go through the court ADR program, mediators do not charge fees for the first half hour spent scheduling or preparing for mediation. They also do not charge fees for the first two hours of mediation. If parties need more time, they must pay that person's regular fees. Some mediators ask for a deposit before mediation starts. Mediators who do this must give back whatever is left after counting the time he or she spent preparing for or doing the mediation. A party whose court fees have been waived (cancelled) may ask if their mediation fees or deposit can be waived.

If parties agree about how they will settle their case, they can choose to keep it private, write it up as a contract, or ask the judge to make it a court order. What parties say and agree to in mediation is confidential (private).

PRIVATE MEDIATION

Private mediation works in the same way as judicial mediation, but the parties do not go through the ADR Programs office. Parties choose a mediator on their own, and pay the mediator's normal fees.

JUDICIAL ARBITRATION (non-binding)

In judicial arbitration, an independent attorney (arbitrator) looks at the evidence, listens to the parties and their witnesses, and decides how the case will be settled. Judicial arbitration is less formal than court. Parties call or visit the ADR Programs office to get a list of arbitrators. If they cannot agree on an arbitrator, the court will assign one. The judge can send cases to arbitration if there is less than \$50,000 in dispute. The person who started the court case can make sure the case goes to arbitration if they agree to limit the amount they are asking for to \$50,000. Parties can also agree they want to use judicial arbitration. The arbitrator must send their decision (award) to the court within 10 days of the last hearing. The award becomes a court judgment unless a party asks the court to review the case within 30 days. Parties must use the ADR 102 form to ask for a new court hearing (called a trial de novo.) Judicial arbitrators charge \$150 per case or per day.

PRIVATE ARBITRATION (non-binding and binding)

Private, non-binding arbitration is the same as judicial arbitration, except that the parties do not go through the ADR Programs office to choose an arbitrator, and the arbitrator's award will not become a judgment of the court unless all parties agree. Parties must pay the arbitrator's normal fees.

Binding arbitration is different from judicial or private non-binding arbitration because the arbitrator's decision is final. Parties give up their right to have a judge review their case later (except for reasons listed in California Code of Civil Procedure, Section 1286.2.) Binding arbitration rules are listed in California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 1280-1288.8. Parties may also agree any time before the judge has made a decision that ends the case to switch to binding arbitration. Parties choose the arbitrator on their own, and must pay the arbitrator's normal (not \$150) fees.

SETTLEMENT MENTOR CONFERENCE

Settlement mentors are independent, experienced trial attorneys that a judge has assigned to help parties look for ways to settle their case. The conference is free and is held in the courthouse. It is often held on the morning of trial, but it can be scheduled anytime. These conferences usually last two or three hours. Parties do not present evidence and do not call witnesses. Parties can ask the settlement mentor to keep some information confidential (private) from the other party, but not from the judge. The settlement mentor can share any information with the judge, or involve the judge in settlement discussions. All principals, clients, and claims representatives must attend the settlement mentor conference.

NEUTRAL CASE EVALUATION

In neutral case evaluation, an independent attorney (evaluator) reviews documents and listens to each party's side of the case. The evaluator then tells the parties what they think could happen if the case went to trial. Many people use the evaluator's opinion to reach an agreement on their own, or use this information later in mediation or arbitration to settle their case.

Parties call or visit the ADR Programs office to get a list of evaluators. After parties have agreed on an evaluator, they must write a summary (5 pages or less) explaining the facts, legal arguments, and legal authority for their position. They must send this summary to the other parties and the evaluator at least 5 court days before evaluation starts. ALL parties and their attorneys must go to neutral case evaluation. The evaluation can be held whenever and wherever the parties and the evaluator want, as long as they finish before the court deadline. If the parties go through the court's ADR program, evaluators do not charge any fees for the first half hour spent scheduling or preparing for the evaluation conference. They also do not charge fees for the first two hours of the evaluation. If parties need more time, they must pay that person's regular fees. Some evaluators ask for a deposit before evaluation starts. Evaluators who do this must give back whatever is left after counting the time he or she spent preparing for or doing the evaluation. A party whose court fees have been waived (cancelled) may ask if their evaluation fees or deposit can be waived.

TEMPORARY JUDGE

Some parties want a trial, but want to choose who will decide the case and when the trial will take place. Parties can agree on an attorney that they want the court to appoint as a temporary judge for their case. (See Article 6, Section 21 of the State Constitution and Rule 2.830 of the California Rules of Court.) Temporary judges have nearly the same authority as a superior court judge to conduct a trial and make decisions. As long as the parties meet the court deadline, they can schedule the trial at their own and the temporary judge's convenience.

Each of the temporary judges on the court's panel has agreed to serve at no charge for up to 5 court days. If the parties need more time, they must pay that person's regular fees. All parties and their lawyers must attend the trial, and provide a copy of all briefs or other court documents to the temporary judge at least two weeks before the trial. These trials are similar to other civil trials, but are usually held outside the court. The temporary judge's decision can be appealed to the superior court. There is no option for a jury trial. The parties must provide their own court reporter.

SPECIAL MASTER

A special master is a private lawyer, retired judge, or other expert appointed by the court to help make day-to-day decisions in a court case. The special master's role can vary, but often includes making decisions that help the discovery (information exchange) process go more smoothly. He or she can make decisions about the facts in the case. Special masters can be especially helpful in complex cases. The trial judge defines what the special master can and cannot do in a court order.

Special masters often issue both interim recommendations and a final report to the parties and the court. If a party objects to what the special master decides or reports to the court, that party can ask the judge to review the matter. In general, the parties choose (by stipulation) whom they want the court to appoint as the special master, but there are times (see California Code of Civil Procedure Section 639), when the court may appoint a special master or referee without the parties' agreement. The parties are responsible to pay the special master's regular fees.

COMMUNITY MEDIATION SERVICES

Mediation Services are available through non-profit community organizations. These low-cost services are provided by trained volunteer mediators. For more information about these programs contact the ADR Program at (925) 957-5787



First Class Mail



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